

Social Studies Tech News



COMMON CORE STANDARDS

You probably already know that the state education department has a new set of learning and teaching standards for us! The COMMON CORE STANDARDS are literacy based. Therefore some of our lessons and teaching strategies may need to be updated. Here are some useful websites:

www.corestandards.org This site provides clear and easy to find information about the CCS. There are news articles and information about the evolution of the CCS.

www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/ This site provides the NYS Common Core Standards for any level or subject you teach. The “toolkit” provides answers about implementation and comments from the education commissioner.

<http://primarysource.org/the-common-core-getting-there-globally>

This site offers “Webinars” to help you implement the CCS. There is a registration required to take part.

www.engageny.org “Your one-stop shop for resources related to New York’s Race to the Top reforms.” Jay Corcoran shared this site with us on Superintendent’s Conference Day. You can click on “Teachers” and it will lead you to “Curriculum Exemplars” so you can look at an actual CCS lesson plan. How cool!

www.604and609.org Here you can see how real teachers implement the CCS in their own classes. There are innumerable links to all kinds of resources for teaching in NY, including grants for teaching U.S. History! Gary Bodenburt suggested this site. It was really helpful when we had to write that Common Core lesson!

FUN STUFF ON THE WEB!

Just because some sites are blocked at school doesn’t mean they’re not worth checking out!

www.Meetup.com is a site that has groups of users that share a common interest (Star Wars, anyone?) They plan trips, lectures, tours, and outings for those who have similar interests.

www.localharvest.org provides information on all things organic. If you’re concerned about the environment or about pesticides in your foods, check it out. Organics are everywhere! Just ask Kathleen!

WHO’S USING TECHNOLOGY?

YOU are! Even the most reluctant teachers in our department are using their Smartboards! As the year progresses, you’ll see that the Smartboard can act as a chalkboard. Just write on it! You can save the notes for use later in the day and you can even print your handwritten notes for absent students. If you still feel funny doing that, change the background to black, and change your pen to white... it even looks like a chalkboard! I’ll be happy to show you how!

In **Global Studies**, Gabby Meier used her Smartboard to get her students to “Walk like an Egyptian” then mummify a person by removing his organs and putting them in jars on the Smartboard! Very creative Gabby! I smell a TIRA!

U.S. History teachers used Dreher’s Smartboard to watch JFK’s inauguration speech while we created our Common Core lesson plan.

Rachel’s **Global I** classes did a “virtual archeological dig” in the Indus Valley. Her students determined if those Indus cities were actually a civilization. Rachel’s becoming an expert at sharing YouTube videos through Zamzar! Go Rachel!

**LET ME KNOW WHAT
YOU’VE BEEN DOING!
I’LL GIVE YOU A SHOUT OUT!**